

The U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement "Deserves Congressional Approval"

"Colombia Is An Ally That Deserves Free-Trade Status And Has Done More Than Its Share To Earn It"

Los Angeles Times

"Under pressure from human rights and labor organizations, Colombia has done what Democrats in Congress have urged: improved the country's dismal labor record." "Now the U.S. must demonstrate faith in an ally – faith that its reforms are not solely the product of political pressure from the north, and that the people of Colombia and the government are equally committed to a more just society. Congress should approve the trade pact." (Editorial, "Approve Pact With Colombia," *Los Angeles Times*, 4/8/08)

The Seattle Times

"Washington's delegation in Congress should support the trade agreements that have been signed with Peru, Colombia, Panama and South Korea." These agreements include enforceable labor and environmental standards... That is worth supporting by the people of Washington, who rely on international trade more than people in any other state. (Editorial, "Approve trade deals around the Pacific," *Seattle Times*, 8/15/07)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

"The Colombia agreement is another example of when politics must take a back seat for a larger good. We certainly know how Hugo Chavez is rooting for the congressional vote to turn out." (Editorial, "Smoot-Chavez," *The Wall Street Journal*, 4/7/08)

The Washington Post

"[T]he proposed pact is good policy for both Colombia and the United States." "Meanwhile, the agreement contains labor and environmental protections much like those that Congress has already approved in a U.S.-Peru trade pact. A vote for the Colombia deal would show Latin America that a staunch U.S. ally will be rewarded for improving its human rights record and resisting the anti-American populism of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez." (Editorial, "Free Colombia; A Trade Pact Everyone Can Love," *The Washington Post*, 3/31/08)

Chicago Tribune

"The pact contains the strongest labor and environmental protections of any U.S. trade deal in history. It would signal support for Colombian President Alvaro Uribe, a strong U.S. ally." (Editorial, "Off With His Head," *The Chicago Tribune*, 4/7/08)



"Indeed, Colombia, America's strongest ally in the region, is also Latin America's most remarkable success story." "For the United States, meanwhile, the deal means not only a market for an estimated \$1.1 billion a year in added exports, but the chance to counter Chavez's blustering with a real model of what friendship with America can look like." (Editorial, "Democrats' Real Boss," *The New York Post*, 4/8/08)

"Colombia's President, Álvaro Uribe, Has Made Stunning Progress"

Columnist George Will: "The trade agreement would make this 'one-way free trade,' which now primarily serves Colombia's interests, more mutually beneficial." (George F. Will, Op-Ed, "Mark Penn's Transgressions," *The Washington Post*, 4/8/08)

- **"Colombia's president, Álvaro Uribe, has made stunning progress against the drug cartels, right-wing militias and FARC, the 9,000-man Marxist terrorist group that is financed by drug smuggling and kidnapping."** "Colombia, America's best South American ally, shares a border with America's most aggressive South American enemy, Hugo Chavez's Venezuela."

Columnist Robert Novak: "Colombia has fought a long, successful battle against leftist guerillas financed by Chavez." "As a faithful U.S. ally, Uribe has been astounded by the fate of the trade agreement. Since it was signed in November 2006, not one congressional hearing has been held. To please Democrats, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab has gone back to Bogota and won changes on labor and environmental issues. Even now, she is willing to add trade adjustment subsidies for displaced workers. But nothing budes labor." (Robert Novak, Op-Ed, "Dems Risk Alienating Colombia Over Trade," *The Chicago Sun Times*, 3/3/08)